



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ANTI-SEMITISM

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION on December 11 by the Polish Government of the minority rights clause of the Versailles Treaty as part of the law of the land no doubt will help compose the situation within Poland somewhat and diminish the persecution of the Jews. But, like all laws, it will need sympathetic administration to be at all effective, and action or non-action will show whether there really is any sincere disposition by the Polish Roman Catholic Christians to ease up on the persecution. Real amity and honest enforcement of the law would directly and simply modify an internal problem now vexing the United States, for it is from the centers of anti-Semitic persecution that hordes of prospective emigrants to the United States are finding their way to Baltic seaports and thence to the United States. Congress, in the new immigration legislation that will be enacted at this session, may so rule as to exclude much of this proposed "exodus," in which case a bettered state of affairs in Poland would draw some of the fleeing Jews back there.

Regrettable as the fact may be, it is certain that both in western Europe and in America there is more openly avowed anti-Semitic feeling today than has existed before. After you have discounted much of it as due the "post-war complex" that breeds divisions of all sorts—racial, vocational, religious, political and commercial—and that gives the world today an aspect of universal disintegration, you have to reckon with other causes for the range and intensity of the anti-Semitic crusade. Some of it is based on the reading and acceptance as true of an alleged document purporting to give the details of a plan to which Jews, it is said, everywhere assent, the same having for its purpose the domination of the Gentile world. The document is unquestionably a "fake," but it is widely read and is accepted as true by the gullible.

Jews are now attacked by two groups of critics, one group attaching to them responsibility for bringing on the war and "queering" the Peace Conference's decisions, in order to promote their personal, family, and racial pecuniary interests, and the other group crediting them with responsibility for the radicalism now rampant throughout the world, and especially the Russia communistic form of it.

The situation is such that any lighting of new firebrands of hatred of any kind is most deplorable; and the more so if for the first time in its history the United States adds to its already acute race problems one that will array against each other the followers of Christianity and of Judaism. We are glad to note that the Federal Council of Churches, at its recent meeting in Bos-

ton, went on record condemning any attempt to ostracise, punish, or otherwise make uncomfortable a man whose only offense is that of being of the seed of Abraham and of the race of Jesus. Equally commendable is the elaborate challenge recently issued by representative men, orthodox and liberal Jews, calling upon Mr. Henry Ford to prove the charges against the Jews that from week to week he sends forth in his weekly newspapers.

On the other hand, it must be said with some frankness that there is some peril in the situation if Jewish moderates and loyalists, who are neither proletarians nor plutocrats, radicals nor reactionaries, do not watch out. They are likely to be drawn into indiscriminate attack on critics and into equally non-judicial glorification and defense of all their race. Like other races in the United States that during the past six years have formed "blocks" for group ends, they can add fuel to the flames of attack by any show of solidarity that puts race above everything else.

Rightly or wrongly, the intense nationalistic spirit of the United States at the present time is hardening into a very militant and grim attitude toward all "groups" that make the nation secondary to their group interests.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DELEGATES from the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, forming a commission of investigation known as the International Communications Congress, have been in session in Washington for two months. They have been acting for their respective governments in the rôle of experts, ascertaining precisely what the conditions now are governing collection and transmission of information throughout the world, and debating ways and means of co-operating and controlling cable and radio lines, both those that are owned and operated by governments and those that are privately owned and managed.

The commission has not found it possible always to agree on all important phases of this problem, but as it closes its work and its delegates report back to their several governments, it has issued a preliminary report for the benefit of the public to prove that it has not sat in vain. The recommendations of the commission, after being considered by the governments they represent, will, it is hoped, come before a World's Communication Congress, to be called later in the year.

A draft has been made of a code covering all forms of electrical communications—by telegraph, cable, and

radio. If approved, it would take the place of the so-called "St. Petersburg Convention" of 1875 and of the Radio Convention of 1918.

A tentative plan also has been framed for a universal electrical communications union, similar in intent to the universal postal union, having for its object "the international reciprocal exchange of telegraphic and telephonic communications, by land—line, cable, radio, and all other electrical devices and other forms of signaling, as well as encouraging the further extension and improvement of such means of communication."

Provision also is made for the formation of an electrical communications council, in which Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States and four representatives, selected by other powers, shall be represented.

The commission also has dealt with concrete inequalities now existing in rates imposed by companies and is recommending that "subject to the ordinary classification of messages, under like circumstances services and rates are to be the same to all users without preference, concessions, priority rebates, or discriminations."

The American delegates have found themselves much handicapped in the negotiations and debates because of the unique situation existing in this country, where telegraph companies are privately owned. Most nations control their own means of intercommunication, even when they do not own them; and this anomalous condition of the United States, now that it has become part of a grave matter affecting the equal place of the nation in negotiations for a better ordered world, is likely to become a live domestic issue sooner than it otherwise might have. This will be hastened by precisely such difficulties as the federal authorities are now having with one of the leading telegraph companies of the country over its charges for government service and because of its resistance to the government's policy toward a British cable company with which the American telegraph is in close relations.

One of the most important matters before this commission, and about which it is still undecided, has been that of the cables formerly controlled by Germany, taken possession of and used by the Allies and now to be distributed on a basis as yet undetermined. There is rivalry among the European powers on this issue, one that this commission at its first session has found it impossible to compose. The American representatives have stood squarely and steadfastly for equality of service and rights, whatever final disposition is made of the issue of ownership; and ere the commission ad-

journed, December 14th, they had gained the right of the United States to one-fifth control of the lines.

For the United States, just at the present time, the most acute situation grows out of Japan's disinclination to concede to the United States any formally guaranteed share in use of the cable that lands at the island of Yap, in the Pacific Ocean, Japan as a mandatory of the League coming into possession of this island, formerly controlled by Germany. As neither the Executive nor the Legislative arms of the American Government have recognized the title thus conferred on Japan, the State Department has been quite within the law and comity of nations in protesting against monopoly control of one of the keys to the Pacific news service; and as we go to press it would seem as if Japan had conceded the essence of the American claim.

FIVE HUNDRED women, prominent in New York society and in social welfare work and reform movements, recently sat down at a banquet in New York City to listen to persons who are to approach the legislature of New York asking for the legal right to preach "birth-control." The necessary legislation has been drafted by Prof. S. M. Lindsay, of Columbia University. Mrs. Margaret Sanger, the chief American exponent of this crusade for a smaller and better world population, has just returned from a trip to England, Holland and Germany, and has reported on the development of this school of thought in those countries. We are specially interested in her argument that no world peace is possible without a reduction of the birth rate. "Diplomats," she said, "may form leagues of nations, but so long as women continue to produce explosive populations all the leagues in the world will be merely proverbial scraps of paper." Mrs. Sanger does not go quite as far as Mrs. Jesse Hardy Mackaye, of Milwaukee, who has recently urged that women decline to bear children until the men of the world disarm the nations. But the opinions of both these women and the degree of support they are getting from prominent women of the country indicate that a ferment is at work which will leaven the social lump of the future. Of course, the time-honored way of getting rid of surplus population was that followed by Nature, when (as at present in China) millions starved. A more modern way is by the blockade, such as the Allies have used during the war and since the Armistice. Mrs. Sanger and her associates plan for "conscious" action in times of "normalcy," lest abnormal pressure of population induces war for territory and for supplies with which to feed surplus mouths.

AN ASPECT of the disarmament problem which cannot be ignored was dealt with by Bishop McConnell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in a striking address which he made before the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, at its meeting in Boston, this month. So long as armament must be manufactured to "carry on this wretched business of killing," this progressive leader insists that it must be under government control. If it continues to be a business handled by private owners, then the Bishop is quite clear that the time is not far off when the labor organizations of the world will say just how much they will do for makers of implements and munitions of war, and just how much they will not do. In short, the time is coming when capital thus invested for personal profit and quite oblivious to the social consequences of the industry will find itself challenged by organized manhood saying, "Lay down your arms." The sensation will not be unlike that which some newspaper publishers have had recently. Compositors, pressmen, and organized workers have declined to manufacture papers that are hostile and unfair to labor *per se*. "There are a great many ways of skinning a cat," and the munitions business may understand some day that its ablest opponent and the one most to be feared is not the congressman with a bill calling for disarmament, but the group of labor it employs. We are not arguing. We are describing what has been seen already in England. It may yet be a fact with us.

FINLAND MAY not accept the report of the Committee of International Jurists, appointed by the League of Nations, a report which finds that the question of ownership of the Aalands is not a domestic one. Finland will probably not agree, under any circumstances, to the cession of its islands to Sweden. Finnish papers insist that if this principle is fully acted upon it will have to be carried out by force of arms. Thus it looks as if the League of Nations would have to pursue some other course in its attempt to settle the difficulties between Finland and Sweden. It is doubtful if Finland will even agree to a plebscite, for the Finnish authorities have made it clear that the Aaland Islands are a political and economic necessity to Finland. This is particularly true because Finland is a prohibition country, while Sweden is wet. Because of this fact, Finland has great difficulty in preventing the smuggling of liquor from Sweden into Finland. If this be the case with forty miles of water separating the two countries, Finland is quite convinced that prohibition would be impossible for her should the Aaland Islands be added to Sweden. While the difficulty thus presented applies especially to

liquor, it applies in no insignificant sense to other dutiable goods. Furthermore, as one correspondent has cabled from London, the people of Finland are not overimpressed by Sweden's argument that the population of the Aaland Islands is of Swedish descent, because if that argument were followed to its logical conclusion, she would have to give up all the other islands off her coast and even parts of the mainland. Finland has just become a member of the League of Nations.

SOcialism and the League of Nations are not open to the charge of being fraternal in their temper and attitudes. There are socialists in the Assembly, notably Herr Brantling, of Sweden, and there are statesmen in the Council and otherwise co-operating with the League who, in the past, have had doctrinaire sympathy at least with socialism. But the many groups of Socialists in Europe, speaking through their formally summoned assemblies, do not find the League at all admirable or suited to their aims, according to their standards of internationalism. They claim that Socialists are all too few in the League's official ranks; that a League without Russia is a farce; that Germany should be admitted at once; that the League now stands sponsor for an inequitable division of the raw materials necessary for recouping a disorganized world, the strong nations, as usual, refusing to bear the burdens of the weak nations. Socialists also point to the failure of the League to enforce swiftly and effectively any of its decisions against disobedient and selfish nations, like Poland, as a sign of its inherent impotence. Moreover, as staunch believers in disarmament, they criticize the slowness of the League in meeting this issue.

"THE WORLD WAR was the logical result of animal emotions controlling the terrific power released by the human intellect," said one of the ablest of social engineers, in discussing "The Principle of Industrial Philosophy" before a recent meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. That is the modernistic way of saying that war is "beastly," we suppose; and as engineers of all kinds in the United States are now federating to promote a finer type of industrial relations in order to bring about economic peace, it is to be hoped that they also will throw their massed influence against the "terrific power (of Nature) released by the human intellect" being used for beastly ends in international affairs. Labor is federating with a distinct purpose to "strike" in future wars. How about science? In England, Professor Soddy, the distinguished scientist, has refused to co-

operate with the British War Office in undertaking chemical warfare research, and the National Union of Scientific Workers has appointed a committee to consider how far science is justified in withholding its attainments to further ways and means of taking human life and destroying property.

ONE GRASPS at all consoling news indicating that the strife since 1914 has had some beneficent effects. Hence it is well to note that American actuaries report a decline in the suicide rate in the United States and Canada similar to the one previously reported from Great Britain. White males especially have moderated their self-destructive propensities. Why? Because opportunity for service and labor, whether in or out of the army, put an end to morbidity and introspection. War wages removed from the minds of many American and British workers the fear of poverty. Wholesale enforced medical inspection of several-million men disclosed to many of them the baselessness of their dreads and sure ways to win long and healthy lives. Indeed, so vastly has the point of view of the average civilian toward personal and social hygiene changed as the result of the war's teachings that the nation and the States are now getting legislation conserving the national health that under ordinary circumstances would not have come until after a much longer process of educational propaganda.

WE ARE IN RECEIPT of a most distressing pamphlet, entitled "Farbige Franzosen am Rhein," containing a documented account of the behavior of the French Senegalese troops in the Rhine regions of Germany. There are accounts of 14 cases of rape, of 30 cases of attempt at rape, of 47 cases of assault, and of 59 cases of immoral assault upon boys. Our own opinion is that the French are making a strategic mistake in keeping the Senegalese troops in that region. Reports out of Germany indicate to us clearly that it is the one outstanding thing which the Germans resent more than they resent their defeat in the war. The result is a bitterness that is sinking into the very soul of the German people—a bitterness which it was not necessary to arouse, a bitterness which augurs nothing but ill for the days that lie before.

A BRITISH non-official investigator, describing conditions in Petrograd as they were in April, cited, among other interesting facts, that whereas under the old régime there were not less than seventy students, on an average, in the School of International Law of the University, in April there were only two. This fact, if

it be a fact, is disquieting; for a sovietized Russia will find, despite all present indications to the contrary, that nations do hold the ideal of a law-governed world. Exigencies of present need may compel Lenin to emphasize domestic affairs and concentrate on sovietization of so much of Russia as he can retain under the nibbling-away effects of nationalization in the Baltic, Ukrainian, and Caucasus region. But some day he must, if he retains power, sign treaties with the major powers among the Allies. Will anything in the history of past international procedure have weight with him? Who will be his advisers? Old Russia had jurists. Has the New Russia men who can come into international conferences with a knowledge of the past as well as with hope for the future?

THE GERMAN PAPER *Die Brücke*, published in Danzig, has in its number of October 23 an article entitled "Soll ich Auswandern?" ("Shall I Emigrate?"). This is a question which, it appears, is being asked by many Germans, especially those of the eastern provinces, which the war has separated from Germany. The writer advises against emigration—first, for the sentimental reason that Germans should stay with their country when it is in distress; second, for practical reasons, such as the expense, the high cost of living abroad, the unfitness of the Germans for labor in hot climates, the opposition to Germany abroad, difficulties incident to language, etc. But the writer goes on to suggest that times may change after the financial conditions of Germany have improved and the entire international situation has cleared. When the world has real peace, then a temporary emigration of the ablest of the German citizens might become urgently necessary, "in order to rebuild abroad that which the war has destroyed and in order to show the nations of the earth that the Huns have been misrepresented by England." The article concludes: "Do not emigrate now, but wait until an opportune time for emigration arrives; and then, if you still adhere to your plan, turn trustfully to the officers and clubs that make the care for emigrating numbers of our people their business and who gladly assist with word and deed, free of all expense."

CREDIT SHOULD be given to the U. S. War Department for the speed and thoroughness with which it has settled most of the contractual claims against the government that existed when the Armistice came, in 1918. Orders for the production of a vast amount of material had been given on the common understanding among the heads of the armies that the war would not end prior to the summer of 1919, if it did then. To

adjudicate on the losses that manufacturers and other producers would undergo by orders of the government to stop production might have been left to ordinary judicial tribunals and to the processes of litigation, costly and lingering. But a special board was created within the War Department, equipped with jurists and technical specialists, and it has passed upon 30,000 claims that will call upon the Treasury for payments amounting to \$473,415,993, with a net saving to the government of nearly three billion dollars. Only 604 of these claims had failed of settlement on November 20. Some of these undoubtedly will find their way to the Federal Court of Claims.

Certainly it is a great feat in mediation and adjustment that the War Claims Board has to its credit; for, as Secretary Baker says in his report on the matter to Congress, "each of the 30,000 claims was a potential lawsuit . . . involving large sums of money as well as novel and difficult forms of law and accountancy." Hundreds of men and firms have been saved to solvency. Billions have been saved to the taxpayers. Future generations will escape the scandals that grow out of delay in settling war claims until evidence and witnesses disappear. The nation has established a record of equity in dealing with business that may well be imitated in trading and commercial circles. And all by mediation, conciliation, and adjudication, unhampered by precedents and the red tape of legalism!

INDIA'S ALLEGED MISRULE by Great Britain, like Ireland's case against Great Britain, has reached the stage of open discussion and formal sympathetic action by citizens of the United States, including some persons high in office, notably Senator Norris of Nebraska. At a convention of Freedom of Friends of India held in New York City, early this month, a commission was named to proceed to India and make investigation, the presumption being that full opportunity for such probing would be given by British officials in India. The persons backing this new form of attack on Great Britain are in many cases also prominent in the drive for American support of the Irish Republic's demands, and they also are active in the commission of investigation of Irish affairs which has sat in Washington and heard witnesses, notably the widow of the Mayor of Cork, Terence MacSwiney, who died in prison from self-determined starvation. This pseudo-judicial tribunal has not met with the approval of the American public. It is deemed to be presumptuous, and also offensive to a nation with which the United States is on friendly terms; and to be operating under a theory of criticism in international conduct, which we would

quite disapprove were the British to set up commissions in England to investigate the internal affairs of the United States. One direct result of the Commission's creation and its sessions in Washington has been to accentuate the differences between Irish and non-Irish elements of the population and to irritate further an already inflamed sore. Similar in effect has been the attack on the British flag by Sinn Fein sympathizers, and especially the flagrant case of the Union Club's invasion and sacking by a New York City crowd. The extreme policy favored by the faction of the Irish in the United States which is loyal to de Valera, is working steadily against the cause of Irish independence. Saner representatives of the race realize this and are trying to put on the brakes; but the extremists have the rank and file of the Irish-American group with them. It would seem that we have problems enough here in America without looking across three thousand miles of sea for new opportunities to try on our little formulas for uplift.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS has begun publication, for general use, of all treaties and international agreements registered with the secretariat. These, with literature, various in kind, pertaining to the League, may now be had at the League of Nations Bureau, Woolworth Building, New York City. Some of this material is on file for reference purposes only, and some of it is for sale, but in either case the intention is to make the facts available to as large a number of persons as possible.

ONE DOES NOT need to sympathize overmuch with the Austrians of pre-war days, living the Laodicean life of Vienna, that brilliant and shallow capital, countenancing the inequities and iniquities of the Hapsburg rule. In a sense, they are getting a retribution that is their dessert. But the educators, scientists, artists, clergy, and jurists, who are undernourished, illy clothed, and without funds, they do make a moving appeal. We say jurists because of a letter which has appeared in the *New York Times*, written by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Austria, to whom a food draft had been sent by a Connecticut judge. In reply the jurist wrote:

"No one who has not experienced it can have any conception of the present distress in Austria. Your gift especially gratifies us, because we see in it a sign that the international fellowship of judges and intellectual workers is not dead, but forms an unbreakable bond, uniting the intellectual workers of all nations. I shall share the good with the most needy members of the Supreme Court."